



Docket No.: M&N-IT-337

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
IN ORIGINAL APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

OPTICAL COUPLING SYSTEMS AND OPTICAL CONNECTORS

described and claimed in the specification bearing that title, that I understand the content of the specification, that I do not know and do not believe the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, that I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate of this invention has been filed earlier than the following in any country foreign to the United States prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns:

German Application 100 64 601.8, filed December 18, 2000, the International Priority of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119; and International Application PCT/DE01/03607, filed September 14, 2001, the Priority of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG (Reg. No. 29,308)
WERNER H. STEMER (Reg. No. 34,956)
RALPH E. LOCHER (Reg. No. 41,947)
GREGORY L. MAYBACK (Reg. No. 40,719)

Address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

LERNER AND GREENBERG, P.A.
POST OFFICE BOX 2480
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101